

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on 03 April 2009, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-31 as and stated that the reply filed on 19 June 2008 was not fully responsive to the prior Official Action because the remarks do not point out why claims 18-31 (now re-numbered as 18-30) are patentable in view of the prior art of record as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.111(b).

In the previous response filed 19 June 2008, Applicant has added new claims 18-31 (now re-numbered as 18-30), which recite additional features of the invention. Newly added independent claim 18 recites at least one feature not found in Tams et al (U.S. Publication Number (20030069952), henceforth "Tams."). Specifically, as explained in Applicant's response filed 19 June 2008, claim 18 (and claim 1) recites a connection table that maps each node of a network to a record that stores information about traffic to or from the node and between that node and others nodes in the network. Tams fails to disclose this feature. The claimed "record feature" of claim 18 is not suggested by any of the passages referred to by Examiner or elsewhere in Tams. Similarly, Maufer et al (U.S. Patent Number (7120930), hereinafter "Maufer") is silent on this "record feature."

Note that in Applicant's response filed 05 January 2009, newly added claim 20 appears to immediately follow claim 18 (i.e., claim 19 appears to be missing). Applicant renumbered the newly added claims as claims 18-30 and updated the claim dependencies.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 18, as currently amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-17 and 26, which depend upon claim 1, and claims 19-25 and 27-30, which depend upon claim 18, are in condition for allowance for the same reasons and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the application is presently in form for allowance.
Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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